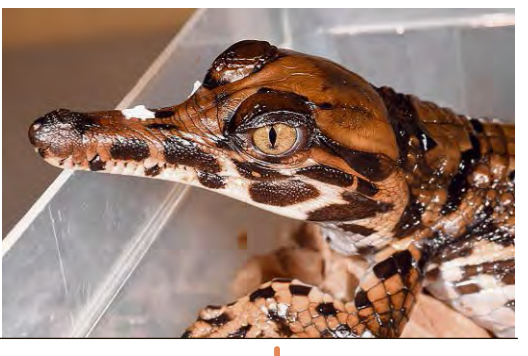
WEEKEND
Joy and cheer: Your guide to the holiday events of December, 1G

LOCAL NEWS
Blessed event: Baby crocodile born at Zoo Miami, 3A



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WINNER OF 22 PULITZER PRIZES

FRIDAY DECEMBER 1 2017

$2

Partly cloudy 79°/68° See 10B

Miami Herald

H1

HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS

Latvala releases a trail of texts with his accuser

■ The attorney for Florida Sen. Jack Latvala provided the Herald/Times with copies of more than 200 text messages between Latvala and Rachel Perrin Rogers, the Senate staffer who filed a sexual harassment complaint against him. The texting spans more than four years.

BY MARY ELLEN KLAS AND STEVE BOUSQUET
Herald/Times Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE

Long before she filed a sexual harassment complaint against Sen. Jack Latvala, Senate aide Rachel Perrin Rogers asked to meet privately with the powerful senator to discuss legislation, invited him to her office suite for chocolate cake and barbecue, donated to his campaign and even asked him to use his political clout for a personal favor.

"I need some help for my stepdad," Rogers wrote in a June 19 text message.

Her stepfather, a neurosurgeon, had tried to get out of jury duty in Pinellas County to care for a patient, she said in a text to Latvala. After the request was rejected, she asked the senator from Clearwater to intercede — by contacting Pinellas Clerk of the Courts Ken Burke.

Latvala promptly replied: "If I

SEE LATVALA, 2A

ACC CHAMPIONSHIP

AL DIAZ adiaz@miamiherald.com

Fans show their support as the University of Miami Hurricanes host the Virginia Cavaliers at Hard Rock Stadium in November.

UM fans flock to Charlotte, hoping for a coronation

The fan known as Cutler Ridge Laz and his wife, Maureen, are making the trip to Charlotte.

■ Thousands of University of Miami football fans — maybe as many as 25,000 — are expected in Charlotte for the ACC Championship game against No. 1 Clemson.

BY MICHELLE KAUFMAN
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Clemson fans have to travel just two hours up I-85 to get to Saturday's highly anticipated ACC Championship showdown between the top-ranked Tigers and seventh-ranked University of Miami. The Hurricane faithful have a much longer journey — 730 miles by air or car — to get to Charlotte, North Carolina.

But that isn't stopping thousands of UM fans from making the trip. The school sold out of its initial allotment of 5,000 tickets, requested another 2,500 and sold out of those, according to Jesse Marks, UM's Associate Athletic Director for Development. There were more than 10,000 requests.

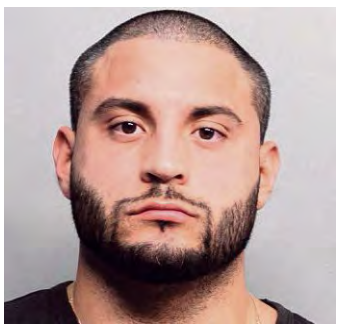
Nobody knows for sure how much orange and green will invade 75,000-seat Bank of America Stadium, but there could be as many as 20,000 to 25,000 Miami fans based on

SEE UM FANS, 2A

LOCAL NEWS

NEW HEADACHE FOR DEMOCRAT

Embattled former DNC chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz's husband, Steve, faces a lawsuit in Broward, **3A**



LOCAL NEWS

BIEBER GUARD IN CRASH WITH COP

Justin Bieber's bodyguard faces a DUI charge after he allegedly rear-ended a Miami-Dade police cruiser in Kendall, **4A**

BUSINESS

AIRPORT CHIEF BIDS FAREWELL

Ousted Miami airport director Emilio González could be a leading candidate for Miami's city manager post, **8A**

DEATHS

ACTOR-SINGER JIM NABORS DIES

The man who played the amiable bumpkin Gomer Pyle on 'Gomer Pyle, USMC' and 'The Andy Griffith Show' was 87, **12A**

MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT

All aboard: New Metrorail cars to be first of many

■ Metrorail launched its first new train on Thursday, the first in a promised replacement of Miami-Dade's aging and unreliable public transportation rail fleet.

BY DOUGLAS HANKS
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Metrorail launched its first new train Thursday since Ronald Reagan was a first-term president, promising a slow end to the transit system's current crisis of breakdowns and unreliable schedules.

"I appreciate the fact that I will be riding in air conditioning," County Commission Chairman Esteban "Steve" Bovo said at a ceremony unveiling the $8 million four-car train. "I appreciate that when it is raining outside, it will be dry inside."

The new train represents about 7 percent of the available seats on a Metrorail system that tries to have 14 trains running during rush hour. That's down from 21 a year ago, before Miami-Dade cut service to close budget gaps in transit.

While the four new rail cars serving as the system's first replacement train represent a relatively small fix, their debut sig-

SEE METRORAIL, 2A

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Passengers board the new Metrorail trains at the Miami International Airport terminal. The new cars are the start of the fleet replacements expected to reduce breakdowns and delays.

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